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I CLAIM:

1. A roofing tile comprising:

a generally rectangular element(10) having lateral edges(11,12) and top and bottom portions(13,14),
wherein one side of said tile has a plurality of ribs(16) formed thereon,
wherein said ribs increase in depth from the top portion of the tile to the bottom portion of said tile,
wherein said ribs are formed in a generally crossing pattern and form means whereby compartments(21-32) are present and comprise increasing volumes from top to bottom,
the tile providing means whereby fire or flame spread is significantly reduced.
2. The roofing tile of claim 1 wherein said ribs are shaped to form diamond or partial diamond patterns to reduce flame spread.

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3. The roofing tile of claim 2 wherein smaller triangular areas(60) are formed at lateral edges of the tile, said triangular areas(60) having upper portion means(60a) for directing a flame-melted material to a center portion of said tile.
4. A method of delaying the spread of flame-melted or hazardous materials comprising the steps of:
 - 1) providing a base element(70) having upper and lower portions(71,72),
 - 2) providing rib elements(81-84) extending from said base element(70),
 - 3) collecting hazardous material in chambers (A,B,C) of progressively increasing volume moving down the base element(70).